

unjust, the Court concludes that the Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and expenses under the EAJA.

The Plaintiff requests that the EAJA award be paid directly to the Plaintiff's counsel as the Plaintiff's assignee. In support of this request, the Plaintiff has submitted a fee agreement executed by the Plaintiff, pursuant to which the Plaintiff has agreed to assign any EAJA fee award in favor of counsel. [Doc. 14-2]. The Court finds that the Commissioner should accept this assignment of the awarded fees by the Plaintiff to counsel and upon receipt of such assignment, the Commissioner will pay that award of fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel, provided that it is shown that the Plaintiff does not owe any debt to the United States Government which is subject to offset. See Astrue v. Ratliff, 560 U.S. 286 (2010).

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

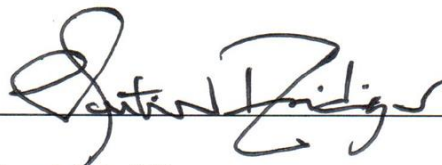
- (1) The Plaintiff's Petition [Doc. 14] is hereby **GRANTED**, and the Plaintiff is hereby awarded attorney's fees and expenses in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00), which sum is in full satisfaction of any and all claims by the Plaintiff in this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d);
- (2) Within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order, or some other time as determined by the Court upon good cause shown, the

Commissioner shall inform the Plaintiff's counsel whether the Plaintiff owes a debt to the Government by which this fee award may be offset. Before any funds are disbursed to counsel, the Plaintiff's counsel shall provide a valid fee assignment to the Commissioner;

- (3) In the event that past-due benefits are awarded on remand, the Plaintiff shall have sixty (60) days after being served with notice of the past-due benefits award to file for an award of fees pursuant to the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(b); and
- (4) No additional Petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) may be filed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed: February 5, 2024



Martin Reidinger
Chief United States District Judge

